

THE PART THE JOURNAL PLAYED IN THE

"THAT more has been done for Cuban independence, more for the cause of freedom, more for the honor of this great country, by one single newspaper, the New York Journal, than by the entire agency and power of this great Government."—From the speech of Congressman D. A. De Armond, of Missouri, in Congress, Jan. 27, 1897.

Roused Public Sentiment for Avenging the Maine.



Michelson, Pioneer Correspondent.

CHAPTER I. MICHELSON, JOURNAL'S PIONEER IN CUBA.

Charles Michelson was the first newspaper correspondent to go to Cuba. He was sent by the Journal. He is the only American newspaper man who made a complete tour of the island during the rebellion just ended. Michelson went down shortly after the rebellion was started. Marshal Martinez Campos was then in command of the Spanish forces on the island. Campos permitted Michelson to go all over the island, and the dispatches sent to the Journal by him, at that time particularly, were therefore of both varied interest and widely accepted reliability.

As long as Campos was in command Michelson was able to do his work without interference, and Journal readers were therefore treated with a profusion of articles of both general and news values from the pen of this gifted writer. When Campos, the humane, who was respected even by his opponents in arms, was recalled and Weyler succeeded to the command in Cuba, however, Mr. Michelson found the situation a much more difficult one. He endeavored to be still true to his instructions to "get the news wherever it happened," and with his interpreter, Lorenzo Estancurt, and his camera, it still continued to be true that there was no more ubiquitous person in Cuba than Journal Correspondent Michelson.



Murat Halstead Goes to the Front.

CHAPTER II. MURAT HALSTEAD GOES TO THE FRONT FOR THE JOURNAL.

There were many important points about Cuba, the insurrection, the people, the situation, generally speaking, in the Pearl of the Antilles—on which considerable doubt lingered. The Journal decided to clear these doubts one way or the other, and to that end Murat Halstead, the distinguished journalist and publicist, was commissioned to go to Havana. The rebellion was in its first year when Mr. Halstead landed in Cuba's capital. His mission had provoked comment throughout the country, and everybody was on the tip of excitement as to the verdict that he would pronounce.

Mr. Halstead's dispatches to the Journal at the time were most comprehensive and instructive. They were studied closely in official and legislative circles in Washington, and the great mass of people who knew him to be a competent observer of men and things read them with eagerness.

General Weyler succumbed to Mr. Halstead and gave the Journal's commissioner the first interview accorded by him in Cuba to any newspaper representative. They were searching questions that the "Butcher" had to answer before Mr. Halstead was satisfied. Having commanded access to the "Butcher's" presence, Mr. Halstead thereafter made good use of the privilege for the benefit of all other American newspaper men in Havana. Weyler was seeking every possible opportunity to annoy and harass them, but Mr. Halstead made him desist, representing to him that it was not they who were responsible for the editorial attitude of their various papers, for which Weyler had been blaming them, but the managers of the papers at home.

While these correspondents were furnishing Journal readers with all the news about Cuba, other correspondents were watching events in Spain. The principal of these was Don Manuel Alhama, one of the leading journalists of Madrid. The Journal, however, was not content with communications from its own correspondents. In March, 1898, the Queen Regent, herself, through Prime Minister Sagasta, addressed the Journal. There had been anti-American riots in Spain, and to the Journal cabled to the Queen, offering her its columns for any message she might desire to send to the American people.

Her answer was hailed everywhere as one of the most distinct triumphs of many years for American Journalism. She said the riots were insignificant, adding:

"Yet it would be impossible to deny that the sentiment of disgust in Spain to-day is unanimous and exceedingly deep seated, more so, indeed, than it has been since the beginning of the century. It is based on the proposal to recognize the belligerency of a few insurrectionists."

HOW THE JOURNAL WON CUBA'S INDEPENDENCE.

NOW that the war with Spain is over and Cuba is free from Spanish rule, the Journal looks back with pardonable pride on the part it played in the momentous international episode.

Far back in the early days of the rebellion the Journal cheered the Cubans and advocated their cause. When the rebellion was in its first year and the Journal had just come under its present management, the declaration was made, editorially, that "Cuba must and shall be free."

That promise the Journal has kept.

It has taken three years of agitation to bring about the happy result. At no time, however, was there any doubt that the end would be as the Journal set out to make it—Cuba's long-deferred hope of liberation from the tyranny of Spanish yoke realized.

In Havana, among the Spaniards; in the interior of Cuba, with the patriots; in Washington, where lay the greatest potentiality of the situation; in Madrid, the fountain of the iniquity that for three centuries had flooded the fair island—wherever, in fact, there was work to be done, there Journal commissioners were sent, and there they labored that, as the Journal had promised, Cuba should be free.

They braved perils on land and sea, perils of disease and pestilence, and perils of war. They faced death in the swamps of Cuba, suffered imprisonment in foul, Spanish dungeons, and risked capture by Weyler's troops when capture meant a short shrift and execution.

Nothing daunted them in the discharge of their duties, and the Journal rejoices to-day that under its direction their work has borne its full fruit, having helped to render successful the latest effort to establish democracy in this hemisphere.

There was never any faltering in the Journal's course. In season and out of season its voice was raised in behalf of the struggling patriots until the freedom of Cuba became to the people of the United States an ideal, an ever-present ambition; until legislative and then official Washington waked to the necessities of the hour and struck those blows which have wrenched the shackles from Cuba's wrists.

"Recognition of belligerency is not enough," the Journal long ago admonished Congress and the Executive.



General Bradley Johnson in an Explosion.

CHAPTER III. GEN. JOHNSON GOES TO THE FRONT.

The exhaustive study which Murat Halstead had made for the Journal of Cuba—political, social, industrial and the like—was supplemented by the observations on the ground of the existing military conditions by a widely recognized military expert—General Bradley T. Johnson, the Confederate soldier.

General Johnson was commissioned by the Journal to go to Havana to do this work, and the beneficiaries were the readers of the Journal only. Like the great majority of those who went to Cuba to report the war, he was not disposed in favor of the Cubans, and like all of them, he was no sooner on the island, face to face with Spanish oppression, treachery and baseness than he became an enthusiastic advocate of the Cubans and their cause.

General Johnson had a very narrow escape from death by insurgents' bullets and dynamite. He was riding in Matanzas province in a train, which the Cubans partly derailed by an explosion of dynamite. They then fired into the train, which was carrying a company of Spanish soldiers. General Johnson was badly shaken up by the explosion, and a bullet passed through his coat, but he was not injured.



Rescue of Miss Cisneros.

CHAPTER IV. THE CISNEROS RESCUE.

The first news of the Journal's rescue of Miss Cisneros from the Casa de Ricodijas was told in the issue of October 9. The heroic rescue was told in detail on October 16. At once America's best women and statesmen began to shower their congratulations upon this paper. Secretary of State Sherman said of the deed:

"While I cannot discuss Spain or Cuba, every one will sympathize with the Journal's enterprise in releasing Miss Cisneros. She is a woman."

The whole country applauded the act, and the local Cuban colony went wild with joy. Weyler raged at the Journal from Havana, and it looked for a time as if international complications might ensue. Secretary Lyman Gage, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and General Julio Sanguily declared the rescue was unparalleled in history for cool daring.

By October 13 the discussion of the occurrence had grown so widespread that the Cabinet took it under consideration. President McKinley stated that Secretary Sherman's epigrammatic statement to the Journal "voiced the unofficial sentiments of the Administration." Karl Decker became a hero, known the world over.



Mrs. Ruiz Presenting Her Case to the President.

CHAPTER V. EXPOSURE OF DR. RUIZ'S MURDER.

The Journal was foremost in bringing to light in March, 1897, the brutal murder of Dr. Ricardo Ruiz, an American citizen, who was beaten to death in a Spanish prison, where he was held incommunicado for weeks and denied the privilege of seeing his wife or children, who daily remained near the walls of the prison.

On the flimsiest charge he was dragged from his family by the soldiers of Fonsderiella, military governor of Guanabacoa, and thrown into a noisome cell.

The Journal unearthed a lot of additional facts concerning the murder of Ruiz, and these were placed before the United States authorities. In utter want were the children and widow of Ruiz when the Journal brought the family to this city and provided them with comfortable quarters.

Later the Journal caused Mrs. Ruiz and her children to be taken to Washington, where an audience was obtained with President McKinley, to whom Mrs. Ruiz told her pitiful story.

Through the efforts of the Journal substantial assistance was procured for the widow and her children.



Dynamite for Journal Men.

CHAPTER VI.

DYNAMITE FOR JOURNAL MEN.

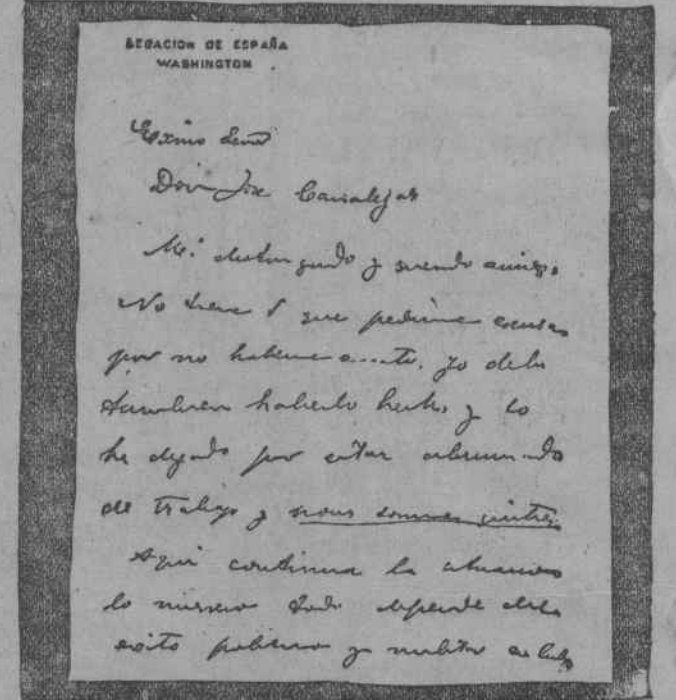
The Journal's indefatigable energy in behalf of Cuba's freedom, both at home and abroad, of course aroused the hatred of the Spaniards toward the Journal and Journal men. Before the Spaniards blew up the Maine they tried to dynamite the Journal correspondents in the Journal bureau in the American Consulate building at Havana.

This happened in December, 1897. Several times bombs which failed to explode were thrown into the Journal offices. Finally the repeated attempts to dynamite the Journal men's working place so alarmed the owners of the property that they ordered the Journal to seek other quarters.

When the first bomb was found in front of the building it was supposed that the American Consulate was being aimed at in revenge for the pro-Cuban attitude of the United States. When it finally became apparent, however, to the Havana authorities that it was the Journal men who were aimed at, the cordon of Spanish guards who had been placed around the building was at once withdrawn.

Always unofficially, and very often officially, the Spanish hampered the Journal correspondents up to within a few days of the declaration of war.

One Long Triumph for The Journalism That Acts.



De Lome's Insulting Letter.

CHAPTER VII. DE LOME'S INSULTING LETTER SECURED.

On February 3, 1898, the worst insult to the United States in its history—the calling of President McKinley by Spain's Minister, Du-puy De Lome, "a low politician, catering to the rabble," in a letter written by De Lome to Jose Canalejas, editor of the *Heraldo*, of Madrid—was exclusively announced in the Journal, which also caused a national sensation by securing and publishing a fac-simile of the letter.

It was in such language as he used in his letter to Canalejas that Minister De Lome often referred to the American people. It was not his first offense. Nearly twenty years before he had published a book, "From Madrid to Madrid, Around the World," in which he slurried America and its people. To the women he was particularly obnoxious in the passages devoted to them.

In the letter in which he characterized the President as a politician De Lome showed his hate of the Journal by saying:

"Nearly all the newspaper canaille which swarms in your he are English, and at the same time that they are correspondents the Journal they are also correspondents for the best newspapers in reviews in London. Thus it has been since the beginning."

The letter came into the possession of the Journal and by was laid bare to the world.



The Competitor Court Martial.

CHAPTER VIII. JOURNAL RELEASES COMPETITOR'S CREW.

The Journal with characteristic alacrity and promptness, moved weeks in advance of the United States Government to obtain the release of the crew of the *Competitor*, who were arrested at Havana and locked up for weeks in the Cabanas. The men, Americans, suffered great hardship in prison, and although their detention was palpably without justification, the Spanish authorities declined to release them and kept them locked, incommunicado, in vile dungeons. The Journal gave great publicity to the case, and demanded of their Government that the imprisoned men be interceded for.

The State Department finally, spurred by the Journal, made a demand on Spain for the release of the crew of the *Competitor*, which was complied with.

The crew arrived in this city, and their first act was to express thanks to the Journal for their prompt deliverance from a Spanish prison.

The day following the publication of the President's message, which the President held out no hope to poor, suffering Cuba, the Journal sent a staff of reporters to Washington to poll the Fifty-ninth Congress upon five vital issues. Chief among these issues was consideration of Cuban belligerency or independence. Polls were taken on either aspect of the subject. The result of the poll showed that in the House a majority stood in favor of granting belligerent rights; on Cuban recognition, 69 votes registered the majority opposed to granting the independence of the island.

On the same day the Journal published, exclusively, the figures and facts contained in a secret report furnished to President McKinley at his request. This report was submitted to him before he had finished writing his message.

The report showed only too plainly the awful inroads starvation and continued war were making among the poor of the island. The cruel policy of concentration was then in vogue. With the Journal, President McKinley took the stand that concentration, besides having utterly failed as a war measure, was cruel, inhuman and not civilized war. It was extermination.

Thanks to the Journal, the release from a Spanish military hospital of Augustin Cosío y Serrano, father of Evangelina Cisneros, was secured, and Evangelina's father was clothed by the Journal and furnished with transportation to this city. Here he met his beautiful daughter, from whose side he had ruthlessly been torn by the Spanish soldiers and thrown into prison.